



## Groundhogs/Woodchucks

### WDCA Options:

- Education
- Non-lethal Methods:
  - Exclusion
  - See first page of these guidelines.
- Lethal Removal
  - Hunting year-round
  - Trapping during regulated furbearer trapping season.
  - State Depredation permit, only if damage has occurred.

### Lethal Methods:

- Groundhogs **may not be relocated and released alive on another property**. Must be released on property of capture or euthanized either at the site of capture or at a facility designed to humanely handle the euthanasia.
- Woodchucks/groundhogs may be hunted year-round with a state hunting license. A landowner is not required to purchase a license to hunt on his/her own property.
- Woodchucks/groundhogs may be trapped during the open trappings seasons (see WRC regulations digest for specific dates and trapping areas) with a trapping license.
- Outside the legal trapping season, groundhogs may be taken with a depredation permit if damage has occurred.
- Groundhogs that are **in the act** of causing property damage may be shot by the landowner **without** a depredation permit (where not prohibited by local ordinance).

### Injured or Orphaned:

The caller may be advised to let nature take its course or may be referred to the nearest wildlife rehabilitator.

### Nuisance or Depredation:

The most common complaint regarding woodchucks is the danger their burrows pose to livestock in pastures. They also may damage vegetable gardens, flowers, shrubs, lawns and damage to roots of orchard trees is probably due to voles (refer to section for Voles).

**Groundhogs *cannot* be relocated off the property of capture!**